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REMARKS

Claims 1-3 have been canceled.

Claims 4-10 remain pending in the application.

By way of this response, Applicant has made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the examiner telephone Leo J. Peters at (408)433-4578 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Response to the rejection under 35 USC § 102

Claims 4-8 and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Agan, U.S. Patent No. 5,669,684 (*Agan*). Applicant traverses the rejection as follows.

The rejection errs in alleging in section 1, page 2, that *Agan* discloses driving the switch (20) to a non-conducting state if the input voltage supply V_c and the output voltage supply V_R are powered on. *Agan* shows in FIG. 1 that the switch (20) is driven to a non-conducting state only if the level shifter input signal (38) is set to a logic "1", which would then turn on switch (16), which would then drive the switch (20) to a non-conducting state. However, the logic state of the level shifter input signal (38) is not determined by whether the input voltage supply V_c is powered on as alleged by the rejection. Column 3, lines 46-57 and column 5, lines 24-27 cited by the examiner on page 3 do not support the allegation that the switch (20) is driven to a non-conducting state when the input voltage supply V_c and the output voltage supply V_R are powered on.

In *Agan*, the state of the level shifter input signal (38) is clearly determined by the logic circuit (44) as shown in FIG. 1. However, the logic circuit (44) may drive the level shifter input signal (38) to a logic state "0", even if the input voltage supply V_c is powered on. If the logic circuit (44) drives the level shifter input signal (38) to logic state "0", then the switch (20) will not be driven to the non-conducting state, even if the input voltage supply V_c is powered on.

In contrast to *Agan*, the switch in the claimed invention is driven to the non-conducting state if the input voltage supply V_c and the output voltage supply V_R are powered on. Because the logic circuit (44) in *Agan* does not necessarily drive the switch (20) to a non-conducting state if the input voltage supply V_c and the output voltage supply V_R are powered on, *Agan* lacks the claimed latch for driving the switch to a non-conducting state if the input voltage supply V_c and the output voltage supply V_R are powered on as recited in Claims 4-8 and 10. Because *Agan* lacks the claimed latch for driving the switch to a non-conducting state if the input voltage supply V_c and the output voltage supply V_R are powered on, *Agan* does not anticipate Claims 4-8 and 10 under 35 USC § 102(b).

Further, because *Agan* relies on the logic state of the level shifter input signal (38) to set switch (20) to the non-conductive state and not on whether the input voltage supply V_c is powered on, *Agan* does not perform the same function recited in Claims 4-8 and 10. Because *Agan* does not perform the same function recited in Claims 4-8 and 10, *Agan* does not anticipate Claims 4-8 and 10 under 35 USC § 102(b).

The rejection further errs in section 1, page 3 by confusing the level shifter (10) and the inverter (30) in *Agan*

with the claimed latch. Specifically, the rejection refers to "latch (10, 30)". However, *Agan* shows that (10) is a level shifter and (30) is an inverter in FIG. 1. Clearly the level shifter (10) and the inverter (30) referred to by the rejection as the claimed latch cannot be identical to (1) the claimed latch 218 shown by Applicant in FIG. 2 and (2) the claimed level shifter 100 shown by Applicant in FIG. 1 as recited in Claim 7. Because the rejection fails to clearly map each claimed element to a corresponding element in *Agan*, *Agan* does not anticipate Claims 4-8 and 10 under 35 USC § 102(b).

Response to the rejection under 35 USC § 103

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Agan* in view of Annema et al, U.S. Patent 6,320,414 (*Annema*). Applicant traverses the rejection as follows.

Because *Agan* does not necessarily drive switch (20) to a non-conducting state if the input voltage supply V_c and the output voltage supply V_R are powered on as explained above, *Agan* lacks the claimed latch for driving the switch to a non-conducting state if the input voltage supply V_c and the output voltage supply V_R are powered on as recited in Claim 9. Because *Agan* lacks the claimed latch for driving the switch to a non-conducting state if the input voltage supply V_c and the output voltage supply V_R are powered on, the modification proposed by the rejection fails to arrive at the claimed invention. Because the modification proposed by the rejection fails to arrive at the claimed invention, Claim 9 is not obvious under 35 USC § 103(a).
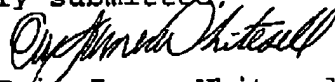
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Rebuttal of response to arguments

The response to arguments errs in alleging in section 3, pages 3-4, that "As soon as, power is applied at V_c a second time, the input signal (38) will turn on the transistor (16) ..." *Agan* does not teach or suggest that the logic state of the input signal (38) depends on how many times the input voltage supply V_c is powered on as alleged by the rejection. As *Agan* shows in FIG. 1, the logic state of the input signal (38) depends only on the logic circuit (44). The logic circuit (44) may be any logic circuit that generates an input signal (38) having a logic state of "0" that turns off the transistor (16), regardless of whether the input voltage supply V_c is powered on. If the transistor (16) is turned off, then the switch (20) is not driven to a non-conducting state, even if the input voltage supply V_c is powered on. Because *Agan* does not necessarily drive the switch (20) to a non-conducting state if the input voltage supply V_c and the output voltage supply V_R are powered on as recited in Claims 4-10, the rejections lack reasonable support. Because the rejections lack reasonable support, Applicant requests that the rejections of Claims 4-10 be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully requests examination and favorable reconsideration of Claims 4-10.

No additional fee is believed due for this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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